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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

SEVERE FOOD CRISIS IN NORTH KOREA

ACORNS FORM BASIC DIET -- Yonhap Sinmun, 11 Jan 50

A reliable report from North Korea states that North Korea has been confronted with an unprecedented food crisis. In Hamgyong Namdo, for instance, the authorities have ordered the villagers to gather acorns as substitute for their main diet. Each family is compelled to collect 10 pecks of acorn [a week].

In spite of the food crisis, the government collection of taxes in kind has been as strict as ever. The grains so collected are stored in the warehouses newly built in the mountains, which are not easily accessible from the villages, instead of in the warehouses that have been used until recently. The purpose of this change is something of a mystery.

The villagers barely survive on salt, sea products, and other necessities that they smuggle from Manchuria. The volume of the smuggled provisions sometimes reaches seven carloads in one night, which indicates the extent of the economic hardships.

The total crop yield for 1949 amounted to only 60 percent of the average annual yield in North Korea. The food shortage has been especially serious in the flatland areas where neither acorns nor any other form of food substitute is obtainable.

SECURITY OFFICERS PLACED IN SCHOOLS -- P'yonghwa Sinmun, 14 Jan 50

A report received recently from P'yongan Pukto states that many security officers have been planted secretly in universities and secondary schools to detect the antigovernment conspiracies among the students whose anti-Communist sentiment has become widespread lately.

A group of eight students was apprehended by the security officers recently in Sinuiju for conspiracy against the Kim Il-song regime.

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On the other hand, the same report also reveals that in October 1949 a group of youths, composed of boxers and football players, insulted churches in P'yongan Pukto. The youths, believed to have been instigated by the so-called Student Democratic Youth Corps, disturbed the congregation by singing loudly revolution songs and vulgar popular songs. They assaulted the congregation when it protested the disturbance.

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